

**By Kristin May**

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The **U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom** has put India on its watch list, citing the country's "inadequate" response to recent waves of violence toward religious minorities.

Though there has been a "disturbing increase in communal violence" in India, "the government's response ... has been found to be largely inadequate, and the national government has failed to take effective measures to ensure the rights of religious minorities in several states," the commission said.

**USCIRF** has been particularly concerned about India's religious tolerance since 2002, when organizations related to the Hindu Nationalist party Bharatiya Janata were on the rise. At that time, India was designated as a "country of particular concern" — the commission's most condemning category — but has since been removed from that list.

With attacks against Christians in December 2007 and into 2008, **USCIRF**'s attention has been called back to India. It reported inadequate police and judiciary response to the violence and the subsequent displacement of 60,000 or more Christians in August and September 2008.